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Ashland, Ore., Monday, Oct. 28, '12

THE OFFICE AND THE MAN.

It is the privilege of every American citizen to aspire to public office. In these days of the petition and the primary it is not a difficult matter for any man of ordinary standing in his community to have his name placed upon the ballot.

Personal acquaintance and geographical considerations are, in general, the determining factors in the choice of office-holders. It is the exception, rather than the rule, when a political contest in a restricted district is decided purely upon the relative qualifications of the opposing candidates.

Conditions occasionally arise when this loquacious and indifferent procedure is discarded because of the really vital interests that are at stake—conditions that make it imperative that the best man who is available be put forward as a candidate. Under such circumstances a man's own estimate of his qualifications will hardly be taken at par. It is more likely that some citizen will be drafted whose worth and ability are so well known throughout the electoral district as to mark him as pre-eminently the man for the crisis and the place. Although it frequently happens that for such a man to become a candidate will mean the sacrifice of personal interests, yet, in the main, a sense of public duty will seldom allow a citizen to decline a candidacy for an office in which there is a widespread and sincere demand that he serve his fellow citizens.

The office of county judge of Jackson county, for the ensuing four years, is a case directly in point. George W. Dunn had no personal desire for nomination. He had already served one term and had devoted four years to hard, persistent work for the county. There was no honor to be gained by another election. His personal affairs occupy his entire attention and to enter upon another four years of public service would mean to him a total disarrangement of his mode of life and a strenuous, heart-breaking struggle to restore affairs in the county court to the high grade of efficiency in which he left them four years ago.

The demand that he again become a candidate was not local. It came from every precinct in the county. It came from personal acquaintances and from men whose only acquaintance with Mr. Dunn was that gained through their knowledge of the work of the county court during his term. A wholesome respect for the opinions and wishes of his fellow citizens made it impossible for Mr. Dunn to refuse. No one could see more clearly than he the abuses to be corrected and the policies to be followed. Reluctantly he allowed his name to be used. The Mail-Tribune and its coterie of self-serving politicians foreseeing their political quietus in county matters if Dunn should be elected, attacked him fiercely and persistently. His overwhelming victory at the primary election was proof positive that the voters of Jackson county have been fully aroused to the importance of a clean-cut, progressive and businesslike management of county business.

Mr. Dunn should, and will, be elected next week by a rousing vote. The citizens who fail to go to the polls and cast their ballot for the re-election of the county's credit will be failing in his duty to himself and his neighbors. And Mr. Dunn's election will be another example of what should occur more frequently in our management of public affairs—the office seeking the man; not the man the office.

Putnam, editor of the Medford metropolitan press, and scarred veteran of a thousand battles, now barricades himself in self-defense and refuses to take the medicine he has so persistently fed others. A signed defense at best is a poor excuse. The surest way to obtain justice is to render justice.

PREJUDICE VS. FACTS.

Within the last three or four days marked copies of the Mail-Tribune have been circulated through all parts of the county. The marked article is entitled "The Truth About the Medford Bridge." The article is ingenious. It excites more than passing interest. Its keynote is contained in the opening paragraph, which reads as follows: "Effort is being made to make the Medford bridge over Bear creek a campaign issue in order to rouse sectional prejudice against this city."

The Tidings has no desire to answer the article referred to. The Medford bridge is in no sense an issue in this campaign. The questions involved are purely legal and are at this time before the supreme court of Oregon for decision. Neither the city of Ashland nor the citizens of Ashland had a part in questioning a county appropriation for the city of Medford. The writ of injunction was secured by Brother Bowers, who resides on his ranch south of the city limits of Ashland. The legality of the appropriation was the point raised, and we may safely trust the supreme court to determine the question in due time.

There is one consideration, however, in connection with the publication of this article in the Mail-Tribune that is of keen interest to the voters of the county, and the question is this: Why does the Mail-Tribune at this time claim that the Medford bridge is being made a campaign issue? By whom is it being made a campaign issue? In whose interest is it being made a campaign issue? Why should effort be made to rouse sectional prejudice against Medford? Can the Mail-Tribune point to a single newspaper article printed in this county during the present campaign that seeks to rouse sectional prejudice against Medford through the medium of the bridge? The Tidings has repeatedly attacked the control of the county court by the Mail-Tribune, but the Tidings has also always admired the adhesiveness and progressiveness of Medford. To resume, has Medford any candidate for public office who might suffer from a general prejudice roused against Medford in this campaign? Has the Mail-Tribune any pet project that might suffer through general prejudice against the city of Medford? Suppose we dig a little deeper into the mental processes of Brother Putnam.

During the primary campaign the Mail-Tribune, with might and main, in season and out of season, advocated the candidacy of Mr. Merrick for county judge. The natural result of such advocacy duly followed, and Mr. Merrick was overwhelmingly defeated by the voters of Jackson county, to which outcome the citizens of Medford contributed largely. Mr. Tou Velle, who received the democratic nomination for county judge at the primaries, has proven himself an astute politician, but in no respect has he more clearly demonstrated his cleverness than in convincing his good friend Mr. Putnam that for the Mail-Tribune to advocate his election would be for that paper to dig Mr. Tou Velle's political grave. Has the Mail-Tribune advocated Tou Velle's election? Not so! A strained and unnatural silence as to the contest for county judge has been rigidly maintained. Mr. Tou Velle has ostentatiously gone forth, single-handed, to cope with the man who had been forced to take the field by public resentment of Mail-Tribune dictation in county matters. But, as a natural sequence of such enforced inactivity, the Mail-Tribune has fretted and fumed under the restraint. The hand of fate has been writing upon the wall and Dunn's election has loomed larger and more portentous day by day. Brother Putnam sits absorbed in thought. Something must be done or all will be lost. One thing, and one thing only, can the Mail-Tribune see that may, by hook or crook, carry Tou Velle under the wire, winning by a nose. That one thing, if by chance it may be accomplished, is a stupendous Tou Velle vote in the city of Medford.

Now let us note the ingenious working of Brother Putnam's mind. A stupendous vote for Tou Velle from the city of Medford is the one chance by which Tou Velle may, possibly, win. But how is such vote to be obtained? Dunn has scores of warm personal friends in the city of Medford. There are hundreds of voters who recognize his ability and his worth, his peculiar fitness for the office. Many of the men who were instrumental in bringing about Dunn's candidacy live within the city of Medford. How can all these local factors, favoring Dunn, be welded into a powerful weapon to defeat him? How can this be accomplished? Let us consider. Ah, yes! There is one chance, one way and one only: Let us rouse the civic pride of Medford! There is probably no city on the coast whose citi-

zens are more loyal and stand more firmly together for the advancement and welfare of their municipality. Let a voice be raised against the fair name of Medford, let a finger be lifted to stay her progress, and the city is in arms. Such sentiment goes for the upholding and strengthening of the community and cannot be too highly commended. And to such a sentiment in the city of Medford Mr. Putnam has thought to appeal through the "marked" article in the Mail-Tribune concerning the Medford bridge.

One may properly inquire whether the printing and general distribution of this article at this time can possibly be designated for other than political effect. Certainly it can have no other purpose. And again, whom might this effect possibly be exerted? There is no candidate in the field whom it might possibly injure, other than Mr. Dunn. And in whose interests did Mr. Putnam have that this injury might be wrought to Mr. Dunn? Obviously, in the interests of Mr. Tou Velle!

The Tidings has on a number of occasions pointed out the close relations existing between Mr. Tou Velle and the Mail-Tribune. In support of Mr. Tou Velle's disclaimer of such connection, the Mail-Tribune has maintained a portentous silence. Like Brier Rabbit, "he ain't sayin' nothing, but jes' lie low." But truth will out! Brother Putnam has overplayed his hand. No one but the Mail-Tribune has in any way connected Mr. Dunn's name with the injunction brought by Mr. Bowers. No one but the Mail-Tribune has ever intimated that an effort was being made to rouse sectional prejudice against Medford. Mr. Dunn, with hosts of friends and well-wishers in the city of Medford, would be the last man to think of alienating them by stepping on the toes of the city's civic pride. But the Mail-Tribune wants desperately to help. The waiting game goes sorely against the grain. Behold Tou Velle in desperate straits and Brother Putnam thirsting for the fray. To attempt to serve him directly would be contrary to pact and agreement; hence the resort to the arousing of sectional resentment. Injured innocence is now the role assumed by Brother Put. The purpose is obvious. Disclaimer is futile. In the words of the immortal bard, "The lady doth protest too much." Something more tangible than innuendo from the Mail-Tribune is required to convince the citizens of Medford that Mr. Dunn is endeavoring to further his own interests by arousing sectional prejudice against that progressive city.

We would recommend that the Mail-Tribune reprint its article and that it adhere strictly to "the truth" by making a couple of slight alterations in the first paragraph, so that it read as follows: "Effort is being made by us to make the Medford bridge over Bear creek a campaign issue, in order to arouse sectional prejudice within this city."

FRUIT INSPECTION.

The orchard industry of Jackson county is one of her greatest sources of wealth and is, at present, in its infancy. Scientific and expert advice, easily to be obtained by the owners of orchards and small fruit ranches, is absolutely necessary, especially in a community where so many men enter upon the industry without previous experience and stake their entire capital in their new venture.

To secure satisfactory results the very best advice must be available. It costs money to secure the services of a first-class man. An incompetent man could easily cause the fruit-growers of the county to sustain losses aggregating a hundred times the salary of a first-class man. To argue too rigid economy in this respect is to favor a penny-wise, pound-foolish policy.

Mr. Dunn believes that the very best expert advice in such matters is not only essential, but that to sanction any other course would be ruinous to many owners of fruit lands, and he knows that a high-salaried man is necessary. His platform states in plain English that he favors the securing for the fruit ranchers the best scientific assistance that is available, and if elected judge he will use every power of his office in furthering the development of fruit-growing in the county, along the lines indicated.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

The Mail-Tribune administration of Jackson county affairs the past four years has cost the taxpayers in round numbers \$1,700,000—\$1,100,000 in direct taxation and \$600,000 in accumulated debt which is still rapidly accumulating. It is any wonder that taxpayers from all sections of the county drafted George Dunn as their candidate for county judge and propose to elect him by a rousing majority?

MR. DOOLEY REMARKS.

Mr. Dooley was returning from a visit to Crater Lake and had been listening attentively to an account of the financial condition in the affairs of Jackson county.

"Well, me friend," remarked Mr. Dooley, "tis a situation that appears to rejoice itself to a common-sense basis of expediency. Th dimmocrats an' th' rascals have named candidates for th' office of county judge. Tis th' constum so t' do, and, in reason, they couldn't do otherwise. But havin' thus fulfilled their duty t' some-honored constum, all concerned hav' relined from partisan enthusiasm an' are now takin' council wid their individual delectable judgment. This here Dooley man would sure t' bev handled th' reins in government in per court house, some years ago, t' th' moment satisfaction in th' proclaimin', exceptin' an' excludin' that small but persistent bunch of amusin' political experts in the benefitin' air at Medford whom yer so callously stigmatize as th' 'Mail-Thrivers' gang. It wad now appear that this here Tou Velle man, although rayordin' in th' appalaizement t' 'dimmocrat,' is in reality bein' insinuated forward by this here same 'Mail-Thrivers' gang to grasp th' hands ir th' unsuspecting voters an' ingratiate himself wid th' electorate to th' end that his friends an' admirers in this here same 'gang' may remain justlybus in th' background without bein' compelled to relinquish their enjoyment ir th' manipulation in the public purse. This here Mister Dooley would appear t' me t' be a fullfledged, compact man for the possession, but Mister Tou Velle appears t' bear th' earmarks ir being a highly spiffled erran' boy for th' intrahists. And," continued Mr. Dooley, "in th' present constarin' an' highly discomposin' status ir yer county cridit it wad appear t' me that it might be termed injudicious at this toime to sind a boy t' mill."

\$36,000 UNAUTHORIZED INTEREST.

Six hundred thousand dollars in floating county debt. At six percent, the legal rate which warrants bear, we are now paying \$36,000 per annum by way of interest charge. When George Dunn retired from the office of county judge four years ago the debt was \$65,000. What do you think of it, Mr. Taxpayer? Better put Dunn back in charge, eh?

As usual, the Mail-Tribune lies. It says: "A dismissal of the case was sought by the defense, Editor Greer agreeing to print a full retraction of the charges." Putnam, who told you that? The first intimation Editor Greer ever had that there were any such negotiations on was when he read the statement in the Mail-Tribune.

PROGRESSIVENESS VS. RECKLESSNESS.

Pure Mountain Water Ice

Do Not Throw Your Apples Away

on a cluttered market. Put them in cold storage for better prices. Your potatoes will not sprout or grow soft in cold storage. Get our prices, which are as low as in the east.

WOOD AND COAL

We have a limited amount of dry wood for sale, and the best Washington state coal for the lowest possible price for cash.

ASHLAND ICE AND STORAGE CO.

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THE BUILDING OF COUNTY ROADS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Paid Advertisements.)

FOR CORONER.

I want your vote. W. W. Usher, independent candidate for coroner of Jackson county.

COUNTY RECORDER.

Fred L. Colvig, Republican nominee for county recorder, second term. Extract from report of J. H. Wilson, expert accountant for Jackson county: "Mr. Colvig's books have been excellently kept. In all my experience I have found but one recorder's office with so good a record."

JOINT REPRESENTATIVE.

Jackson and Douglas Counties. C. L. Beames, Democratic nominee joint representative Jackson and Douglas counties. Residence, Medford, Ore.

ASSESSOR.

W. T. Grieve, Republican nominee for assessor for second term. Residence, Jacksonville, Ore.

REPRESENTATIVE.

J. A. Westlund, Republican nominee for re-election for state representative of Jackson county.

H. K. HANNA.

Jacksonville, Oregon, (Ballot No. 63) Republican Nominee for Prosecuting Attorney.

A native son who stands for vigorous, honest, economical administration of the office and impartial enforcement of all criminal laws. General election November 5, 1912.

Sale of Men's Fall Hats

\$1.50 VALUES AT \$1.00



\$1.00

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It doesn't pay to buy poor clothing for the boys, and you won't if you buy here. We have a big variety of boys' suits and overcoats in many fabrics and patterns. Come and look over our styles, whether you intend to buy or not.

VAUPEL'S

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